





T H E  
K O R E A R E V I E W.

J U N E , 1 9 0 4 .

**The Russo-Japanese War.**

With the battle at the Yalu the active operations of the present war moved across to Manchurian territory whither it is not the province of this magazine to follow them, but the last month has seen some few movements of scattered bodies of Russian cavalry in Korea. We do not profess to understand why the Russians wish to have small bodies of Cossacks racing about northern Korea where they cannot possibly do any harm to the Japanese but succeed only in making more bitter and intense the hatred with which the Korean people look upon Russia. At the present moment the great mass of the Korean people compare the Japanese with the Russians much as they used to compare the people of the Ming dynasty of China with the Manchu hordes. We can scarcely believe that the leading Russian officials would permit the lawless actions of their troops if they were present, but these bands of Cossacks are sent out largely on their own responsibility, it would seem, and they are a law unto themselves in the matter of the treatment of non-combatants.

We have already in a former issue spoken of the actions of the Russians at Ham-heung where they burned 300 houses and destroyed part of the celebrated bridge. On the thirteenth of June a communication arrived from the governor of South Ham-gyung Province, whose seat is at Ham-heung, in which he first

describes the subsequent movements of the Russians who attacked Anju. This news came by way of Ham-heung because couriers from Kang-gye reached Ham-heung before they did Anju and so got their message on the wires first. And besides this the road to Ham-heung was clear of Russians. He says that after the Russians retired from Anju they lacked ammunition and so fell back toward Kang-gye by the same road that they had gone south. The prefect of Kang-gye detailed a considerable number of Korean civilians to take their positions on elevated points and keep watch of the movements of the Russians. On the 24th of May 516 Russian infantry and 520 cavalry with 123 carriers started from Kang-gye across country toward Ham-heung. On the way they stole and pillaged on every side and lived almost entirely off the country paying nothing for cattle, pigs, poultry, rice or fodder. They insulted women both old and young and acted generally like common brigands. They killed four Korean civilians on the way across and forced upwards of a hundred natives into their service. Before starting from Kang-gye they destroyed four *kan* of barracks, one *kan* of powder magazine and sixteen *kan* of other houses together with books, deeds and other important documents.

On the 28th of May nineteen Russian cavalry with one Chinese interpreter arrived from Yi-wŭn at Puk-ch'ŭng and entered the postal and telegraph office and asked many questions, demanded various things and called upon the people of the town to provide them food. They said they had come from Kirin. They then cut the telegraph wires running south. That night twenty-two more Russians arrived at Puk-ch'ŭng and joined them.

On the 30th of May the Governor at Ham-heung sent a telegram to Seoul saying that twenty of the Russian cavalry that had retired northward, after the trouble on the 19th, had returned to within twenty *li* of Ham-heung again and were demanding food. The people were in a state of great excitement and all the young women and many of the other citizens were running away from the town to escape from contact with the marauders.

On the third of June a telegram was received in Seoul from the Superintendent of Trade at Wonsan saying that twenty-five Russian cavalry had arrived at Ko-wun about thirty miles north of Wonsan and the people had run away to the hills. And on the same day he sent another message saying that he had received a letter from the Governor at Ham-heung to the effect that the Russians had entered I-wün near Sūng-jin and had wrecked the telegraph. These Russians declared that 290 more were about to arrive. Later, on the same day, a third message from Wonsan announced that the Russians had entered Mun-ch'ün only twenty miles from Wonsan and had there come in touch with the Japanese and that a skirmish had occurred in which six Russians had been killed and the rest had retired a short distance from the town. The Japanese pursued them for a few minutes at an interval of only thirty meters and in the chase one Russian was killed and one was shot from his horse but managed to run away. The Japanese heard that a large force of Russians were coming and knew that with their small force they could not hope to stop them effectually; so they retired to Wül-gyo-ri a short distance south of Mun-ch'ün. A small body of Russian troops arriving at a hill near Mun-ch'ün, called Ong-nyū-bong, dismounted there and prepared to attack the Japanese but as the latter were badly outnumbered they retired, whereupon the Russians mounted and came on in pursuit until they had arrived at a point 800 meters from the Japanese. Then the Japanese turned and offered fight. Three Russians fell and the remainder retired to Ong-nyū-bong. From here they retired later to the villages of Yul-p'o and Kūn-ch'ül-yi where they set fire to several houses. A few of the Japanese hastened back to Wonsan and reported these events. The foreigners in Wonsan were somewhat exercised over the proximity of the Russians and not knowing their numbers with certainty deemed it advisable to place the women and children in a safe place; so almost all of them were sent to the Sūk-wang Monastery about forty miles to the south, near the Seoul road.

On the 30th of May toward evening sixty-two Rus-

sians entered Ham-heung and on the next day 160 more arrived, and went into camp outside the west gate. That day they burned the telegraph office and ordered the governor to arrest the telegraph operators, but as these had fled, only the servants of the office were seized. These were put on the witness stand and were ordered to tell where the telegraph operators had hidden the telegraph instruments and other implements.

The Japanese had their skirmish with the Russians near Mun-ch'ün on the third of June. The Russians retiring burned eight houses in the village of Pam-ga-si in Mun-ch'ün prefecture and in passing through the prefecture of Ko-wun north of Mun-ch'ün they burned fifty-two houses. They caught the prefect of Ko-wun and charged him with having withheld information about the movements of the Japanese and in their rage they stabbed him in the breast. He managed to get away and sought a place of safety about a mile away from the town. He lay there, at last reports, in a very critical condition, but later advices will show, it is hoped, that his wound is not serious. Shortly after this the Russians all retired across country in the direction of the Yalu by way of Yüng-wun. On their way they buried two of their number besides one interpreter. At last advices they had gone into camp in the triangle between the three prefectures of Yüng-wün, Chang-jin and Yöng-heung.

A later advice from the injured prefect of Ko-wün states that he was badly beaten by the Russians and that he is about to be carried to Wonsan to be treated by a Japanese physician.

The Russians along the Tuman River are, for some reason or other, very much afraid of Japanese spies. Every Korean traveller or itinerant that enters Kyöng-süng is subjected to a rigid examination. His foot is carefully examined to see whether there is a wide space between the great toe and the other toes, for the Japanese, unlike the Koreans, hold the shoe to the foot by a heavy cord passing between the great toe and over the top of the foot. It takes but a moment to find out whether the man is a Korean or a Japanese. The hair is

also carefully examined. It is believed that constant cutting makes the individual hairs much larger and so, even though the hair has been allowed to grow long, it gives an indication as to whether the man has ever been accustomed to cut the hair. The man is stripped and his body subjected to a close scrutiny. If he be short in stature he is examined more carefully than if he be of ordinary height. His intonation, and speech generally, is also noted and any deviation from the correct Korean standard is suspicious. The contents of his pack, the style of the money he carries and every scrap of writing about him is examined with care. Some time ago the Russians seized a large amount of powder, fuses and weapons that the Korean Government had stored at Kyŭng-sŭng and threw them all into the sea. The telegraph machines were taken and connection established with Vladivostock to be used by the Russians alone.

Korean rumor, which is about as unreliable as any rumors made, says that the Russians took steps to establish a sort of secondary headquarters at Kyŭng-sung with 20,000 Russian soldiers.

In order to counteract the Russian freelances in the north the War Office at Seoul is contemplating the placing of garrisons of Korean soldiers at various points as follows; 50 at Ko-wŭn, 100 at Chŏng-pyŭng, 50 at I-wŭn, 150 at Tan-ch'ŭn, 100 at Myŭng-ch'ŭn, 50 at Pu-ryŭng and various numbers at other important places making a total of 3,100 soldiers. Of this number, 2,600 will be the tiger-hunters and the troops already in the north. The governors will be the commanding officers and the prefects will be secondary officers.

An amusing story comes from Mun-chŭn to the effect that a Russian soldier entered a house to insult the women but was attacked by them, his clothes were torn nearly off, his weapons taken away and he was seized and held by the Amazons until the other Russians had all left the place and the Japanese entered the town, when they turned the gay gentleman over to the servants of the Mikado.

It is not easy to indicate the general trend of feeling



among the people of Seoul in regard to these Russian depredations in the northeast. They seem to realize that the Russians can accomplish little or nothing in the line of war by these incursions and they see quite well how the Japanese might practically ignore these movements so far as any danger of serious consequences is concerned, but they feel that the Japanese should put enough troops in that section to save the Korean people from rapine and plunder. Korea has cast in her lot with Japan and she would be justified in attacking these Russians herself since they are acting not according to the laws of modern but of medieval warfare and wantonly abuse the people; at the same time Korea does not want to take up arms against Russia. The war is between Japan and Russia and while Korea has been induced to favor the Japanese cause it is well known that this attitude is not wholly spontaneous, but that there are divergent opinions even in the highest quarters. We do not understand what the Russians are trying to do in the northeast. They cannot hope to effect anything of value to the main cause, and they are sending so few troops that they are not able to divert any appreciable number of Japanese from the main line of attack. If the Russians should throw ten or fifteen thousand men across the Tuman and march southward there would be some semblance of reason in it but at present all they are doing is to heap up against themselves the intense hatred of the Korean people. Hamheung is nothing to the Japanese, but to the Korean it is one of the most noted, and even sacred, places in the land, being the place where the founder of the present dynasty was born and reared. It bears the same relation to the present Korean dynasty that Mukden bears to the Chinese Imperial family. The Russians could do nothing that would more certainly alienate whatever goodwill the Koreans ever felt toward them. Some may try to explain the Russian movements there on the ground that they intend to occupy the northeast until the great battle in Manchuria shall decide the fate of the war; and if it result in a Russian victory the northeast will give a clear road for the Russians on or beyond the



Tuman to sweep southward and attack the retreating Japanese on the flank. But it should be noticed that from the Tuman River to Seoul is more than 600 *li* further than from Mukden to Seoul and the roads are immensely more difficult. The Russian policy is to mass all their force in or about Harbin. If so the northeast route will be of no value whatever to the Russians in case of a Japanese retreat. The only reason for the Japanese to bother about the east side is consideration for the feelings of the Koreans, but the Japanese have heavy work to do elsewhere and mere accommodation can play no part in their policy at present. As soon as the Russian videttes came in touch with the Japanese near Mun-ch'ün they retired and it is probable that they will not again move on Wonsan.

When the Russians seized the telegraph office at Kyöng-süng on the 28th of May they took possession of all the account books and government records. The next day the Korean telegraph superintendent told the Russians that these documents were quite useless to them and asked that they be handed back to him. This they refused to do and their attitude was so suggestively offensive that the superintendent immediately put to sea in a fishing vessel and made his way to Wonsan where he arrived on the 15th of June.

Authentic reports from the northwest indicate that the people are rapidly recovering from the panic into which they were thrown by the presence of the Russians in force and while the Cossacks create more or less disturbance in the more remote districts along the upper waters of the Yalu it is considered practically sure that there will be no more trouble in the more populous portions of the province unless the Russians should turn the tables on the Japanese and the latter should be compelled to beat a retreat. It has even been considered safe for foreign ladies to return to their homes in Sün-ch'ün and in Unsan.

We see from the papers that a large amount of silver yen are needed by the Japanese army in their operations in Manchuria and the Japanese government is withdraw-

ing the silver yen from Formosa for that purpose. While the Japanese were operating in Korea very large amounts of this coin came into the country but now that the army has passed on into Manchuria there is a silver yen famine here. The foreign mining companies use silver yen very largely in paying their native help and it has become quite a serious question where these are to be procured. Really this currency question is a curious factor in the problem. In the various territories now occupied by Japanese troops we find the following kinds of exchange medium :

- (1) Japanese paper yen.
- (2) Dai Ichi-Ginko notes.
- (3) Korean cash.
- (4) Korean nickles.
- (5) Japanese silver yen.
- (6) Chinese cash.
- (7) Sycee.
- (8) Mexican dollars.
- (9) Russian paper roubles.

There may be others as well but there are these at least and in almost every locality only one of these is preferred.

A foreigner passing through An-ju a few weeks ago gives the following account of the skirmish there between the Japanese and the Russians, to which we referred in our last issue. He says :

“The battle here two weeks ago must have been very interesting. There were only forty Japanese here then. The army went over into China long ago and left a few men in each county-seat to hold the main road. Four hundred Cossacks made a dash behind the lines to cut the main road and tried to capture An-ju. The forty Japanese were more than ready. They engaged a lot of Koreans to sit down behind a wall in a safe place and fire guns that the Japanese furnished them and a lot more were hired to yell whenever the Japanese yelled. They then locked the city gates, took their places on the wall and picked off the Russians whenever they came in sight. Every time the Japanese fired, the men detailed for that

purpose would tell the Koreans to shoot like blazes and every time the Japanese yelled the Koreans followed suit, so that although the Russians knew to a dead certainty that there were only forty Japanese there, they began to doubt whether there were not 4,000. They hung around all the morning afraid to walk in and eat up the Japanese. At one o'clock sixty Japanese from the next county came hurrying up the road and took the Russians on the flank, and the Japanese in the town rushed out at the same time; so the Russians came to the conclusion that there were something less than a million Japanese in the vicinity and skipped out—that is, all but twenty-two that were dead. If forty Japanese can stand off 400 Russians and 100 can make 400 run for the tall timber it would be interesting to know how many it would take to whip the whole population of Russia.

“The Russians killed and burned and did a lot of other bad work in Kā-ch'un because they said the people of that place had lied to them about the size of the Japanese garrison at An-ju.”

## The Ajun.

In the February issue of the *Review* we began a discussion of the Korean *ajūn* but in succeeding issues it was crowded out by press of other matter. We return to it now however as being a very important phase of Korean life and one which has always differentiated it from the Chinese social system.

The main business of the *ajūn* is the collecting of the taxes. They form the physical arm by which the government enforces its laws and edicts. At the present day the country is provided with some sort of a police system separate from the *ajūns* but during the long centuries preceding 1894 they attended to all such matters. The reason why their main business is the collection of taxes is because this is the main interest the central government has in the people. As in all despotic countries, the people are merely the bank on which the gov-

ernment draws perennially but without making any deposits. The idea of mutual benefits, while inculcated by Confucian teaching, is purely an academic idea and forms no part of the Korean government's working plan. Nature germinates the seed, the people gather in the harvest and the government in one form or another relieves the farmer of any considerable surplus there may be over and above his actual needs. This gathering of taxes is not only the *ajūn's* main business but, unfortunately, it is one of the government's main concerns as well. If we inquire what the government gives in exchange for the money that the people pay in taxes we find the list a rather negative one. It does not guarantee them immunity from oppression, it does not afford them adequate police protection, it does not provide educational facilities. It simply grants them the privilege to live and to grub away year after year without hope of betterment. One would suppose that there would be constant and serious disaffection on the part of the people. Well, there would be if it were not for the *ajūns* whose business it is to know the people well and to keep their hand on the popular pulse, and give warning of impending danger.

The *ajūns* are the only students of political economy and they learn it not from books but in the practical school of experience. They do not bother their heads about Utopian principles nor try experiments in sociology but they study the actual conditions of their various localities, have all the practical factors of the problem at their fingers' ends and know exactly how to handle any social condition that is likely to arise. They are in such close touch with the people and their daily life that they can foresee probable contingencies and, having at hand all the possible means for meeting these contingencies, they are never at fault.

Suppose, for instance, that the *ajūns* became aware that the government was contemplating the building of a palace or the carrying out of some other public work that would require a heavy outlay of money. They would know instinctively that this money must eventually come out of the common people, the producing class,

which, in Korea, means the farmers. Long before the blow falls the *ajūns* will have worked out the problem as to how they will apportion and raise the extra taxation without exasperating the people. They fit the means to the end with such nicety that they generally succeed in tiding over the crisis without any serious disturbance. Of course there are times when there is no possibility of withstanding popular clamor, where the rapacity of a central government passes all possible bounds. Then the *ajūns* simply spread out deprecating hands and deny all responsibility. The people rise in revolt, drive out the prefect and defy the government. The *ajūns* remain quiescent and the people do not molest them, knowing that they are not to blame. In time the government sends down another prefect who walks softly at first, takes counsel with his *ajūns*, acquaints himself with the causes of the late trouble and attempts to reorganize on some workable basis.

The *ajūns* are not only the prefectural financiers but they are the lawyers as well. In enlightened countries any citizen can secure legal counsel and sue another citizen at law, but in Korea there are no lawyers in our sense. The *ajūns* monopolize that office so far as there is such an office. As a result, they are generally well up in the law; not as we reckon legal knowledge with its fine distinctions and its mass of precedents, but a sort of rough-and-ready, common-sense law which not infrequently serves the ends of justice as well as the intricate codes of western lands. But the subject of legal procedure in Korea deserves and will receive separate notice.

The salary of the *ajūn* is about fifteen thousand cash a month, or six Korean dollars, but it varies somewhat. Some *ajūns* receive as much as eight dollars a month. It is safe to say that no *ajūn* pretends to live on his salary, nor that any Korean or Chinese official of any grade whatsoever lives on his salary alone. The government does not pretend to pay him a living salary. There can be no doubt whatever that most offices in the gift of the government could be readily filled even if there were no salary attached.



What, then, constitute the supplementary sources of the *ajūn's* income? In the first place there is always a heavy charge against the government for transportation of the revenue money. In every government budget we find that out of a total expenditure of \$10,000,000 a full million is spent on transportation. This is because of the lack of good transport facilities. The transport of cash by pony-back is a ruinous transaction but inevitable, if the government desires to receive its revenue. But though the government pays this enormous percentage for transportation, it is not all used for that purpose. The *ajūns* carry on an exchange business whereby much of this money requires no costly transportation, and so the amount the government pays on this item goes largely into the pockets of the *ajūns* and the prefects. In other words the *ajūns* do a banking business on their own account. But besides this, and more frequently still, the *ajūns* invest the government revenue money in merchandise and send it up to Seoul where it realizes a handsome profit. The amount paid by the government has paid for the bringing of the goods to Seoul and so the profit on the transaction may be as high as forty or fifty per cent. There are some forms of merchandise that are worth twice as much in Seoul as in the country and it is unlikely that the *ajūns* would invest in the less paying kinds. A very common way is for a Seoul merchant to carry money to the Finance Department and received an order for an equivalent amount on some prefect, and when this is paid to him in the country the *ajūns* and prefect pocket the amount representing the transportation charges. This is not a swindle but is one of the several perquisites of the country official. The government pays a fixed sum for transportation and so long as the money is transported the government cares not what becomes of the price paid. There can be no doubt that a national bank, begun in a modest way and carried on with skill, economy and rectitude would prove a very paying proposition but in Korean hands there is grave doubt about its success.

Another source of income for the *ajūns* is that which

is called the *cun-gyul* or "hidden measure." Taxes are always levied on the *gul* which corresponds to a certain amount of unthreshed rice. The "hidden measure" refers to rice or other grain that is grown on new fields that have not as yet been legally recognized and for which deeds have not as yet been issued. Each year sees a certain number of new fields made, the "margin of cultivation" always being on the rise. Now, the central government will take no cognizance of these fields until such time as it sees fit to order a general remeasurement of land throughout the country. Then they are all included; but this may be anywhere from two to ten years after they are made, and during that interval the local prefect and his *ajūns* absorb all the taxes paid on such property and we may be sure that no field escapes their attention.

Then again the house tax affords a means for personal aggrandizement. The official report of the number of houses in any prefecture never, we may safely say, corresponds with the actual number, any more than the listed value of a man's house in America corresponds with its actual market value. This is the reason why the population of Korea can never be accurately determined. Judging from the number of houses on the grand list one would infer that there cannot be more than 5,000,000 people in Korea, whereas there are doubtless more than twice that number. The difference between the listed and the actual number is the measure of the local official's squeeze. This too is more in the nature of a perquisite since it is perfectly well understood by the central government and is a recognized "institution" in prefectural administration.

Such are some of the more legal and reputable sources of the *ajūns'* income but it must be confessed that in actual practice there are many other and far less reputable avenues of income. As we have already said, it is a position which presents exceptional temptations to cupidity and it is but natural to expect that many will succumb to these temptations. It may be laid down as a general rule that *ajūns* take their cue from their



superiors and when there is a good central government the *ajūns* will walk circumspectly and when the central government is corrupt the *ajūns* throw off their restraints and work the people to the last point of endurance and occasionally beyond it.

The *ajūn* being such an exceedingly important factor in Korean life we are not surprised to find that he plays a leading role in the folk-lore of the land. The stories in which he figures are simply numberless. Sometimes he is represented as a good man but more often as a bad one and you will not read far in a Korean novel without running across him either as villain or hero or at least in the back-ground of the tale.

From the earliest times these *ajūns* were the prefectural clerks and were skillful in handling the brush pen. Just as in Europe in the middle ages the nobleman could not read or write but depended upon his clerk for these offices, so at first and for some time the same was true in Korea. The *ajūns* write with a peculiar clerkly hand and any educated Korean can tell at a glance whether a document has been written by an *ajūn* or not. It was for the use of these clerks that Sūl-ch'ong made the diacritical system called the *i-tu*. This was a system of marks used in a Chinese text to mark the verbal endings and make it easier for the Korean to read. The very name *i-tu* shows the original position of the *ajūns*, for it means "ajūns' style," the characters being 吏讀. This shows that it was originally intended for use by the clerkly class.

Up to the year 1894 there were *ajūns* in Seoul also but here they were called *suri* 書吏, or "writing *ajūn*." Since that date the place of the *ajūn* in Seoul has been filled by the *chusa*. Some of the old-time *suri* became *chusas* in the new regime.

The *ajūns* being hereditary office holders are more permanent in their various localities than any other people and they acquire local characteristics and hereditary traits which make it possible to compare them in different localities more perfectly than almost any other class. The *ajūns* of Chulla Province are called the best

because they are of somewhat higher social grade and their word carries more weight, and withal they have more pride and feel more fully the necessity of upholding the dignity of their name. They are in a sense the tribunes of the people as well as the servants of the prefect. The people of Chulla Province, unlike those of Ch'ung-ch'ung and Kyung-sang Provinces, are not so much interested in studying Chinese and in getting official positions and the *ajuns* there pay special attention to the industrial lines and are more helpful to the people than elsewhere in the country. The most celebrated *ajuns* have come from that province. In fact well-informed Koreans say that Chulla Province is made up of their families and that there are fewer of the low class and fewer of the high class there than in any other part of the country.

The *ajuns* of the north do not have a very good reputation, for they are not so well educated and they do not work so much in the interests of the people.

The better class of *ajun* is an illustration of what the Korean of the "higher middle class" would be if there were any such class. He is educated, bright, energetic, a good student of human nature and without the measureless vanity of the gentleman. If any one thinks that even under proper conditions the Koreans could not become a strong and successful people, a study of the better portion of this *ajun* class would soon convince him of his mistake.

Foreigners in Seoul hear only the bad things about this most necessary of all the government agents and unfortunately the stories are too often true, but we should remember that there are thousands upon thousands upon whom devolve the most arduous and important duties and who perform these duties, as a rule, with great success.

### The Oldest Relic in Korea.

We recently had the pleasure of a visit to Chün-deung Monastery on the island of Kang-wha and the celebrated



Mari Mountain in the vicinity of that monastery. This monastery is the only one that has figured prominently in the recent history of Korea and it is for that reason, as well as because of the exceptional beauty of its surroundings, well worth a visit. The monastery lies in a sort of mountain crater one side of which has been broken down. It is near the southern end of the island of Kang-wha and may be reached by *sampan* from Chemulpo in about three hours under favorable conditions of wind and tide. With a little extra effort the round trip may be made from Chemulpo in a single day with four hours' stop at the monastery. It is an easy hour's walk from tide water to the gate of the fortress, for this monastery is one of the few which is both monastery and fortress. The whole heavily wooded nest among the high mountains where the monastery lies can be plainly seen from the water as one approaches Kang-wha from Chemulpo. You land at a point called *Ch'o-ji* about two miles below the little fort which the Americans stormed in 1871, and find a good road running right over the low hills westward to the monastery. It cannot be called a really good bicycle road but a bicycle could be used to advantage if one wished. Three miles of easy walking bring you to the foot of the steep hill leading up to the gate of the fortress. You ascend the smooth treeless slope by a path that reminds you of the old-time bridle road over the pass between Seoul and Chemulpo, except that it is not so high. On either side of you are two sharp spurs along which run the battlemented walls to right and left of the gate so that you are immediately inclosed by these two arms of wall high above you on either side. It was at this point that the French suffered a disastrous defeat in 1866 when the expedition under Admiral Roze made a descent upon the island in retaliation for the execution of nine Roman Catholic priests in that year by the order of the late Regent, the Tā-wūn-kun.

It is not to be wondered at that the French authorities should send an expedition to Korea under the circumstances but it was unfortunate that the matter was not pushed to a finish, for the way in which the incident

closed left the Korean Government convinced of its ability to defy all foreign powers. The same was the case five years later when the Americans took the little fort near the same place but then retired without bringing the Government to terms.

In 1866 the French landed on the northern part of the island and took the town of Kang-wha. Hearing that there was a force of Koreans at the monastery twelve miles away, a force of some 160 men marched toward it on a hot October day. They were probably unaware of the number and the quality of the troops they were to meet and the strength of the position they held. As a matter of fact there were some 5000 Korean troops composed largely of the hardy frontiersmen of the north and they occupied a position that even with their poor training and equipment they could have held against an equal number of foreign troops. The French marched up the steep hill toward the gate but before they reached it there burst upon them from the heights on either side a cross fire of both musketry and cannon and within five minutes they were hopelessly crippled. At that time there were some few scattered trees and other shelter below the gate and the brave Frenchmen, not willing to give up the fight so soon even against overwhelming odds, sought shelter behind these natural defenses; but it soon became evident that the purpose of the expedition could not be effected. So a retreat was ordered. The dead and wounded were carried down the hill under a terrible fire from the enemy and the almost desperate march toward the main force was begun. The Koreans swarmed out of the fortress in pursuit and had it not been for a strong body of French who came out to meet them the entire 160 men would probably have been sacrificed.

The Koreans had prepared a large number of stone cannon-balls to use in case their iron balls should be exhausted. We secured a couple of these curious missiles at the monastery. They measure about four inches in diameter and are made of granite, roughly cut in the shape of a sphere.

Back of the monastery, across a valley, rises the forbidding granite crag of Mari Mountain. The characters for Mari are 摩尼 which were evidently used merely to transliterate the ancient Korean name of the mountain. It is the highest peak on the island and on its very top rises the rough stone pile which has been known through the centuries at the *Tangun Tan* or "Altar of Tangun." A stiff climb of an hour brought us to this most ancient relic. We entered a sort of opening in a wall and found ourselves in a little inclosure twenty feet square. On the western side of this and forming part of the wall of the enclosure rose a flight of stone steps made of slabs of stone put together without mortar and rising some eight feet. Ascending these steps we reached the top of the altar proper which is eight feet high above the floor of the enclosure but some twelve feet above the foundations on the other three sides. It is almost exactly twenty feet square on top. The surface of the top of the altar is rough and shows the results of much vandalism. We were told that boys had thrown down many of the stones so that the altar is not so high as it once was. The structure as it now stands is probably not more than a century old, for we read in the annals of Korea frequent statements that the government gave money to repair it. Some parts of it, especially the more solid foundations, are evidently of extreme age and look as if they had been there as long as the mountain itself. The *Tangun* is believed by the Koreans to have ruled in Korea from 2300 B. C. until the time of Kija, 1122 B. C., but works that claim some degree of historicity say that he reigned from 1193 B. C. until 1122 B. C. It is probable that if there is anything real about this word *Tangun* it refers to a dynasty of native chiefs who antedated Kija. The grave of Tangun is shown today at Kang-dong east of P'yeng-yang and is 410 feet in circumference. It was in 2265 B. C. that, according to tradition, he first sacrificed on Kang-wha. The fortress in which the Chūn-deung Monastery is situated is called *Sam-nang* 三郎 or "Three Sons" and according to tradition it was built by the three sons of Tangun.



The entire absence of any kind of inscription in connection with the altar is partial evidence of its extreme age, for if it had been made subsequent to the coming of Kija we should doubtless find some sort of inscription, either in its original shape or in the form of a restoration. One has but to visit the spot to be impressed by the evidences of extreme age, especially in certain parts of the structure.

### Odds and Ends.

#### A Straight Official.

Hū Mok was one of the leading officials in the days of King Hyo-jong 1650-1660, and he was one of the many good officials who died simply because of party strife. The following anecdote is told of him which exhibits a striking contrast with present day officialdom.

While still a young man and before he had come into political prominence he went to a great monastery in Kyūng-sang Province to study. In those days a man could live thus at a monastery free of expense, the expectation being that by the literary skill acquired he would obtain an official position and at a later date recoup the monastery for all expenses incurred and give a handsome bonus besides.

Hū Mok studied diligently and seemed in a fair way to accomplish his object, but money for repairs upon the monastery was urgently needed. It was in danger of falling about the ears of the monks. So they asked him to write a "begging letter" for them. This meant a fine literary production overflowing with praise of the monastery and begging all good men to subscribe toward the repairs. Hū Mok agreed to help them and told them to come the next morning and the letter would be ready for them. When morning came he told them that he had a better scheme and asked how much ready money they had. It was only 20,000 cash, a mere bagatelle. He told them to take it all and buy hemp and bring it to him. They obeyed, though with some hesitation. With the great pile of hemp he told them to make

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an enormous rope or cable as large as a man's thigh. They did so. He then led them up a mountain till they came to a great isolated boulder that stood poised on the edge of a precipice. He put the rope around this and told the 400 monks to pull with all their might. Slowly the great stone came up on end and was securely propped. Hū Mok was either crazy or inspired, surely. But when he pointed to the bed where the rock had lain and discovered to them an enormous hidden treasure of silver they concluded that it was inspiration rather than dementia and forthwith carried the silver home. It was treasure concealed long centuries before by the inmates of a monastery that had stood over the spot where the stone lay. They never asked him how he knew but they took the silver and put their monastery into fine shape. Their benefactor refused to take a single ounce of the silver and finally left for Seoul with only enough money to pay his way. He rose to the highest eminence and the Koreans believe the tale that is told, that all the emoluments of office which he received amounted in the end to the exact sum which he had given the monastery; which is supposed to illustrate the justice of heaven. All the same Hū Mok died in prison at the hands of his great rival Song Si-ryūl.

### Editorial Comment.

The month of June is filled with events of importance which demand more than a passing comment but with our limited space we cannot hope to deal with them adequately. We have given the year's budget in detail. You can judge of a man's life by the entries in his cash account. The same is true of a country. In examining this budget one is astonished at the proportion of the money that is eaten up in salaries. Take the Mining Bureau for instance. Out of \$10,453 not one cent is expended for any useful end unless it be hidden under the paltry item



of \$744 which is denominated, and probably with truth, miscellaneous. The Bureau of Decorations spent \$11,000 out of \$19,000 on salaries. The Ceremonial Bureau used up \$19,000 on salaries and office expenses out of a total of \$21,508.



The matter of concessions to Japanese has assumed large proportions. It is too complicated and important a phase of the present situation to discuss in a few words. We shall take it up later and attempt a dispassionate review of the whole situation. Meanwhile we remember that Japan has guaranteed the independence and safety of the Korean people. We have no doubt that ultimately this large consideration will dominate the situation and that any adumbration of it because of the redundant energy and thrift of individual Japanese will be done away. We note with satisfaction that members of the Japanese Diet, who have nothing personally at stake, applaud the attitude of the Foreign Minister in his opposition to sweeping concessions.

## News Calendar.

### REVENUE

LAND TAX	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$9,703,591
HOUSE TAX	.....	.....	.....	.....	460,295
SALT, FISH, ETC, ETC.	.....	.....	.....	.....	210,000
ARREARS FROM 1903	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,790,687
POLL TAX	.....	.....	.....	.....	850,000
MISCELLANEOUS TAXES	.....	.....	.....	.....	200,000
				TOTAL	.....
					\$14,214,573

### DISBURSEMENT

IMPERIAL PRIVY PURSE	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$1,013,359
IMPERIAL SACRIFICES	.....	.....	.....	.....	186,641

### HOUSEHOLD DEPARTMENT

#### *Railway Bureau*

Salaries	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$15,364
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Office .....	1,728
Repairs .....	120
Travelling .....	1,800
Entertainment .....	240
Machinery .....	120
Branch offices .....	2 000
Foriegners' salaries .....	3,300

Total .....

\$27,672

*Palace Guard*

Salaries .....	\$115,850
Miscellaneous .....	4,308
Office .....	16,100
Repairs .....	1,500
Travelling .....	900
Inspectors .....	1,500
Uniforms .....	27,755
Medical .....	120
Secret Service .....	200
Prison .....	2,023

Total .....

\$170,256

*Police at Open Ports*

Salaries .....	\$40,184
Miscellaneous .....	1 872
Office .....	54 0
Travelling .....	4,200
Repairs .....	620
Uniforms .....	5,818
Prison .....	2,304

Total .....

\$69,398

*Special Police* .....

700

*Northwest Railway*

Salaries .....	\$10,225
Miscellaneous .....	504
Office .....	375
Repairs .....	50
Travelling .....	2,000
Foriegners' Salaries .....	14,400

Total .....

\$27,554

*Ceremonial Bureau*

Salaries .....	\$16,156
Miscellaneous .....	912
Office .....	3 000
Repairs.....	400
Travelling .....	360

Entertainment .....	180
Correspondence .....	500

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Total ..... \$21,508

*Mining Bureau*

Salaries .....	\$2,884
Miscellaneous .....	744
Office.....	1,236
Repairs .....	300
Travelling .....	5,289

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Total ..... \$10,453

## PENSION BUREAU

Salaries .....	\$5,904
Miscellaneous .....	1,152
Office .....	20,496

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Total ..... \$27,552

## BOARD OF GENERALS

Salaries .....	\$32,914
Miscellaneous .....	13,716
Office .....	23,054
Uniforms.....	9,782
Travelling .....	1,500
Mounts .....	4,463
Secret Service .....	1,1500

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Total ..... \$86,929

## THE CABINET

Salaries .....	\$30,234
Miscellaneous .....	2,544
Office.....	2,250
Repairs .....	200
Travelling .....	60
Official Gazette .....	5,500

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\$40,788

GOVERNMENT ANNALS .....840

## DECORATION BUREAU

Salaries .....	\$10,130
Miscellaneous .....	849
Office .....	750
Repairs .....	200
Travelling ...	200
Medals, etc. ....	3,431
Bullion, etc. ...	4,000

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Total..... \$19,560

## HOME DEPARTMENT

*Central Office*

Salaries	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$32,212
Miscellaneous	...	.....	.....	.....	2,940
Office	...	.....	.....	.....	3,000
Repairs	.....	.....	.....	.....	500
Travelling	...	.....	.....	.....	500
Foreigners' Salaries	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,200
Total .....					\$46,352

*Moyoralty*

Salaries	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$4,484
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	...	960
Office	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,000
Travelling	.....	.....	.....	...	120
Repairs	.....	.....	.....	.....	100
Total .....					\$6,664

*Provinces*

Salaries	.....	.....	.....	...	\$55,828
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	...	18,408
Office	.....	.....	.....	.....	10,335
Travelling	...	.....	.....	...	6,780
Repairs	.....	.....	.....	.....	611
Total.....					\$91,962

*Prefectures*

Salaries	1st class	.....	.....	.....	\$6,984
Miscellaneous	„ „	.....	.....	.....	3,312
Sacrifices	„ „	.....	.....	...	300
Office	..... „ „	.....	.....	.....	750
Travelling	„ „	.....	.....	...	270
Repairs	..... „ „	.....	.....	.....	150
Secret Service	„ „	.....	.....	.....	2,088
Salaries (Quelpart)	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$3,000
Miscellaneous	„ „	.....	.....	...	684
Office	„ „	.....	.....	.....	250
Travelling	„ „	.....	.....	...	90
Prison	„ „	.....	.....	.....	098
Salaries	2nd class	.....	.....	.....	\$521,802
Miscellaneous	„ „	.....	.....	.....	163,802
Sacrifices	„ „	.....	.....	.....	27,975
Office	„ „	.....	.....	...	57,510
Travelling	„ „	.....	.....	.....	22,290
Secret Service	„ „	.....	.....	.....	20,712
Total.....					\$831,187

*Government Hospital*

Salaries	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$5,144
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,88

Office .....	700
Repairs .....	500
Medicines .....	1220
Food, etc. ....	650
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$8,932</b>

*Vaccination Bureau*

Salaries .....	\$2,280
Miscellaneous .....	420
Office .....	600
Repairs .....	150
Medicines .....	800
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$4,250</b>

*Special Travelling Expenses* .....

*Various Country Sacrifices* .....

## FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

*Central Office*

Salaries .....	\$19,479
Miscellaneous .....	3,024
Office .....	3,000
Telegrams .....	3,000
Repairs .....	600
Travelling .....	600
Entertainment .....	2,400
Banquets .....	3 200

**Total .....** **\$35,303**

*Superintendent of Trade*

Chemulpo .....	\$6,336
Fusan .....	6,012
Wonsan .....	5,672
Kyōng-heung .....	4,932
Mokpo .....	5 432
Chinnampo .....	5,432
Kunsan .....	5 432
Masampo .....	5,432
Sūng-jin.....	5,012
Pyeng-yang .....	4,932

**Total .....** **\$54,624**

*Legations Abroad*

Japan .....	\$19,140
United States .....	28,000
England .....	29,600
Germany }	
Austria }	34,600
Russia .....	32,600
France .....	33,600

China	.....	.....	.....	.....	19 900
				Total	..... \$197,440
FINANCE DEPARTMENT					
<i>Central Office</i>					
Salaries	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$52,438
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,948
Office	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,000
Repairs	.....	.....	.....	.....	400
Travelling	.....	.....	.....	.....	200
				Total	..... \$67,986
<i>Customs</i>					
Chemulpo	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$56,305
Fusan	.....	.....	.....	.....	30,180
Wonsan	.....	.....	.....	.....	19,115
Mokpo	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,200
Chinnampo	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,200
Kunsan	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,200
Masampo	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,200
Sŭng-jin	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,200
				Total	..... \$141,600
<i>Foreign Loans</i>					
Dai Ichi Ginko	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$1,879,340
Man of War	.....	.....	.....	.....	435,717
Various loans	.....	.....	.....	.....	13,200
Interest on loan from )					
Seoul Fusan R. R. Co. {	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,000
				Total	..... \$2,330,457*
<i>Pensions</i>	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$1,956
<i>Revenue Transportation</i>	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$200,000
WAR DEPARTMENT					
<i>Central Office</i>					
Salaries	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$30,664
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,240
Office	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,000
Repairs	.....	.....	.....	.....	500
Travelling	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,000
Uniforms	.....	.....	.....	.....	994
Foreign Employees	.....	.....	.....	.....	12,360
				Total	..... \$53,758
<i>The Army</i>					
Bureau of Imperial Guard	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$5,898
Bureau of Seoul Guard	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,898

Bureau of Country Guards	5,898
The Imperial Guard	795,625
The Seoul Guard	787,725
Cavalry	121,757
Artillery	117,470
Miners, sappers, carpenters, blacksmiths, etc.	45,502
Commissariat	15,474
Military Band	34,652
Country Guards	2,012,358
Gendarmes	14,396
Court Martial.....	14,396
Military School	87,186
Military Medical Staff	1,460
Imperial attendants	16,192
Memorial sacrifices	2,488
Military Equipment	3,028
Arrenals	460,876

Total ..... \$4,675,251

*The expenses for the Man-of-war* ..... \$450,604

#### LAW DEPARTMENT

##### *Central Office*

Salaries	\$22,353
Miscellaneous	1,692
Office	2,500
Repairs	350
Travelling	1,200
Foreign Employee	6,000

Total ..... \$34,095

##### *Supreme Court*

Salaries	10,363
Miscellaneous	1,260
Office	1,250
Repairs	100
Uniforms	138

Total ..... \$13,111

##### *Seoul Court*

Salaries	\$7,014
Miscellaneous	1,896
Office	1,050
Repairs	100
Uniforms	138
Special investigation	100

Total ..... \$10,298

##### *Law School*

Salaries	\$3,120
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Miscellaneous .....	192
Office .....	1,800
Repairs .....	100
	Total .....
	\$5,212
<i>Provincial Courts</i> .....	\$1,250
<b>POLICE BUREAU</b>	
<i>Central Office</i>	
Salaries .....	\$195,556
Miscellaneous .....	5,688
Office .....	27,000
Repairs .....	7,800
Travelling.....	2,400
Rations .....	10,725
Uniforms.....	44,242
Medical .....	150
Secret Service .....	300
Tents, etc. ....	300
	Total .....
	\$294,161
<i>Jails and Prisons (Seoul)</i>	
Salaries .....	\$8,312
Miscellaneous .....	6,984
Office .....	1,900
Repairs .....	300
Uniforms .....	3,060
Prisoner's food ..	14,034
Burial expenses ..	150
	Total .. .
	\$34,740
<i>Provincial Police</i>	
Salaries .....	\$33,072
Miscellaneous .....	1,728
Repairs .....	4,680
Travelling .....	6,240
Prisons .....	5,742
	Total .....
	\$51,462
<i>Border Police</i>	
Salaries .....	\$16,760
Miscellaneous ...	216
Office .....	2,000
Repairs .....	400
Travelling ...	2,000
Uniforms .....	4,100
Prisons .....	286
	Total .....
	\$25,762

<i>Mileage</i> .....					\$800
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT					
<i>Central Office</i>					
Salaries .....					\$18,287
Miscellaneous .....					1,380
Office .....					1,500
Text-book printing.....					6,500
Repairs .....					300
Travelling .....					200
				Total .....	\$28,617
<i>Annual Calendar</i>					
Salaries .....					\$5,250
Miscellaneous.....					144
Office .....					120
Making Calendar .....					1,200
				Total .....	\$6,714
<i>Seoul Schools</i>					
Salaries .....					\$34,777
Miscellaneous .....					4,932
Confucian School .....					4,873
Normal School .....					4,252
Middle School .....					2,100
Medical School .....					3,100
Industrial School .....					22,350
Intermediate Schools .....					800
Primary Schools .....					5,930
Japanese Language School .....					1,370
English " " .....					2,430
French " " .....					1,800
Russian " " .....					1,560
Chinese " " .....					1,120
German " " .....					1,460
Foreign Teachers .....					44,220
				Total .....	\$135,074
<i>Country and Private Schools</i>					
Mayoralty School .....					\$ 600
Primary School .....					4,680
Open Port Schools .....					3,240
Four Special Schools .....					1,440
Special Country Schools .....					9,000
Subsidy to Seoul Japanese School .....					360
" Chemulpo and Fusan " .....					3,500
" Private Schools .....					4,898
				Total .....	\$27,718

<i>Prince Eui-Wha's Expenses</i> .....		\$8,000
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, &C.		
<i>Central Office</i>		
Salaries .....		\$31,514
Miscellaneous.....		2,652
Office .....		1,800
Repairs .....		400
Travelling .....		1,000
Foreign Employees .....		7,200
	Total .....	\$44,646
<i>Public Works</i>		
Country Works .....		\$424
Silk Culture .....		6,000
	Total .....	\$6,424
PRIVY COUNCIL		
Salaries .....		\$16,320
Miscellaneous.....		1,476
Office .....		1,500
Repairs .....		100
	Total .....	\$19,396
SPECIAL PALACE GUARD		
Salaries .....		\$65,100
Miscellaneous .....		6,102
Office .....		5,457
Uniforms .....		5,319
	Total .....	\$81,978
BUREAU OF COMMUNICATIONS		
<i>Central Office</i>		
Salaries .....		\$14,260
Miscellaneous .....		1,008
Office .....		1,800
Repairs .....		500
Travelling .....		150
Foreign Employees .....		10,200
	Total .....	\$27,918
<i>Communications</i>		
Post Office .....		\$318,427
Telegraph Office .....		276,303
Water Communications.....		15,000
	Total .....	\$609,730

## INCIDENTAL AND EXTRAS

Palace Construction .....	\$300,000
Railroad Land Purchase .....	325,395
Seoul Sewer Repairs .....	5,000
"    Street    " .....	26,150
Wall building .....	3,350
Country Repairs .....	10,000
Suppressing Robbers .....	500
Helping Ship-wrecked men .....	5,000
Eleemosynary .....	300
Scavengers .....	2,488
House Rent .....	480
Mine inspection .....	1,840
Annual Exhibit .....	4,500
Emergency fund .....	1,158,000
Total .....	\$1,843,503

## GRAND TOTALS

IMPERIAL PRIVY PURSE .....	\$1,013,359
IMPERIAL SACRIFICE .....	186,641
HOUSEHOLD DEPARTMENT .....	327,541
PENSION BUREAU .....	27,552
BOARD OF GENERALS .....	86,929
THE CABINET .....	40,788
GOVERNMENT RECORDS .....	840
BUREAU OF DECORATIONS .....	19,560
HOME DEPARTMENT .....	990,948
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT .....	287,367
FINANCE DEPARTMENT .....	2,741,999
WAR DEPARTMENT .....	5,180,614
LAW DEPARTMENT .....	63,967
POLICE BUREAU .....	406,925
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT .....	205,573
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, etc. ....	51,070
PRIVY COUNCIL .....	19,396
SPECIAL PALACE GUARD .....	81,978
BUREAU OF COMMUNICATIONS .....	637,648
INCIDENTALS AND EXTRAS .....	1,843,503
TOTAL .....	\$14,214,298
<i>Surplus</i> .....	275

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\$14,214,573

Kim To-il who was formerly a Russian interpreter in Seoul has been in hiding, so the Japanese press asserts, in the home of a foreigner in the city, but because of a quarrel with his host he was turned out and has been arrested by the order of the Mayor.

The Japanese paper states that the Foreign Office has asked that the interests of Korean subjects in Tientsin and other Chinese ports be put in the hands of the Japanese Consuls, just as Chinese interests in Seoul were put in the hands of the English at the time of the China Japan War of 1894.

Because of petty thieving of railroad ties on the part of Koreans near the river, the Mayor of Seoul, at the request of the Japanese Consul-general has posted a notice stating that anyone detected in such a felony will be severely handled.

The money specially issued for use by the Japanese army passes current among the Chinese at An-tong but suffers a discount of ten per cent.

A Japanese ship-building company at Fusan has asked for a piece of land on the foreshore about two miles up the bay from the settlement in order to carry out its project.

Three Koreans charged with having supplied information of Japanese movements to the Russians were seized in the north and sent to Seoul. Investigation showed that their offense was not of a very serious nature and they were let off with a gentle reminder in the shape of eighty blows on the back with the *whechhari*.

The monks of the Wūn-heung Monastery outside the East Gate were so rash as to state that the burning of the palace was due to the anger of Buddha. They evidently thought that they could work upon the fears of those in high station and thus secure to themselves substantial results, but they reckoned without their host for the result is that the whole monastery has been ordered to remove far from the city, which will deprive it of what few advantages it has heretofore enjoyed.

Two Japanese counterfeiters of the new Dai Ichi-Ginko notes have been arrested. Some Yen 1,494 of their spurious notes have been discovered.

There is prospect of great suffering in the north from three causes combined (1) The poorness of the last years crops, (2) the depredations of soldiers and the interference with agricultural pursuits. (3) the serious lack of rain.

The budget for the current year has at last been published and reads as follows :

Total Revenue . . . . .	\$14,214,573.00
"    Expenditure . . . . .	14,214,298.00
Surplus . . . . .	275.00

The Home Minister, Yi Yong-t'ā, sent in a list of names of candidates for prefectural positions but Cho Pyūng-sik the Vice Prime Minister whose duty it was to examine and pass the names refused to recommend them to His Majesty on the ground that many of the candidates were practically unknown men and there was strong suspicion that they had paid for the office. Therefore Yi Yong-t'ā, Hyūn Yūng-un and others secured the forced resignation of Cho Pyung-sik. Sin Sang-hun was put in the place vacated but he took the same ground that Cho Pyūng-sik had taken and refused to pass the names. An

attempt was made to overcome his scruples by putting the name of his brother-in-law in the list but this had the opposite effect and only fourteen names out of thirty-two were passed. Nothing is more necessary at the present than the choice of thoroughly straight and competent men as country prefects.

On June 4th a telegram from Wonsan said that Russians at Hamhung demanded 3,700 bundles of straw and that the road north of that town be repaired. Twenty Russian cavalry entered the town on the morning of May 30 and forty more arrived the same afternoon. On June 3rd this number was increased by 16 more. Some of them went toward Pyeng-yang and some camped outside the west gate. They demanded of the governor where the manager of the telegraph office was but as no one knew, they seized two post couriers and beat them to make them tell. They did not know. The Russians then burned the telegraph office after looting it.

The authorities intended to dump the garbage of the city just outside the East Gate in some fields, but the Superintendent of the Imperial Treasury objected on the ground that from these and the adjoining fields came vegetables for the palace and at the same time the Electric Company put in a protest on the ground that it would be a nuisance.

The Secretary of the Korean Legation at Paris started on his return to Korea on June 2nd on account of illness.

The Home Department has received notice that three Japanese entered the town of Ch'ang-sŭng in Pyeng-an Province and killed a Korean named Kim, and one of the latter's relatives and wounded another so that his life is despaired of.

The prefect of No-sŭng, in the south, is in serious trouble. He forcibly stopped a wedding procession, caused the groom to be thrown from his horse, the bride's chair to be broken and the bride herself arrested. It was the result of a feud. This, in Korea, is a very serious offence.

The prefect of Yŭn-gi, beyond Su-wŭn, arrested several of the lawless Koreans working on the Seoul-Fusan Railway and locked them up. A hundred or more of their fellows came and broke open the jail and freed them, smashed the house of the prefect and beat the ajŭns. The prefect went in person to the governor at Kong-ju and asked for military support against the ruffians.

A man named Kim stole a nine year old girl in Kyo-dong and sold her to a Chinaman in Ku-ri-gŭ for 80,000 cash, \$32. The girl's parents sought for her everywhere and at last her mother caught sight of her. The girl ran crying to her mother but the Chinaman came and caught her and said he had bought her. Policemen were called but the Chinaman refused to let her go. At last the Chief of Police came in person and after paying the amount that the Chinaman had given secured the child and returned her to her parents. The man Kim was arrested and will be given an opportunity to make it right with the law by walking in the chain-gang a few years.

Yun Tūk-yung has been appointed Judge of the Supreme Court.

Pak Seung-bong has been appointed Chief of the new Industrial and Commercial School.

Yi Heui-min the prefect of Yŭng-wŭn was convicted of extreme extortion and cashiered.

The Japanese press in Seoul states that among the spectators of the battle at the Yalu there were three Englishmen, two Americans, two Frenchmen, one Italian, two Germans, two Austrians and one Swiss.

It is stated that about the end of May the indemnity demanded by the French from the Korean Government because of trouble between the Roman Catholic and the non-Catholic residents of Quelpart in 1901 has just been paid out of the revenues of that island. It amounted to Yen 6315.21.

About the end of May the government at last acceded to the request of Japan that fishing privileges along the entire coast of Korea be granted to Japanese for a term of twenty-five years.

Kwak Chong-sŭk, the famous scholar who visited Seoul a year or two ago, has sent in a very strong memorial against Yi Chi-yong, charging him with unfaithfulness to the interests of the country in several serious particulars.

It is said that the end of May saw the town of Han-heung almost deserted. All valuables had been carried away or buried or otherwise carefully secreted, the women had all gone except those of the slave class, and all the ordinary activities of the town were suspended. The ordinary population of the place is about 13,000.

Sim Sang-hun was appointed vice Prime Minister in place of Cho Pyŭng-sik, resigned.

The government has agreed to pay the sum of Yen 18,624, as indemnity for the Japanese shop partially wrecked by Koreans at the electric road accident last Autumn. The total actual loss could not have exceeded yen 2,000.

Because of great and increasing dilatoriness on the part of Korean officials in putting in their appearance at their respective offices at ten o'clock in the morning, and the consequent congestion of public business, the rule has been promulgated that each time an official is more than fifteen minutes late, without good excuse, he shall pay a fine of ten cents and if he is absent a whole day, he shall lose a month's salary. That clause about "good excuse" will cover a multitude of sins.

The people of Sŭn-ch'ŭn, near Wiju, have secured a good reputation among the Japanese. They have shown themselves so ready to be of service that the Japanese authorities have sent Yen 300 to the prefect to be distributed among the people.

It is stated that the expense of burying Mr. Hong, the Secretary of the Korean Legation in Berlin, who committed suicide, is greater than the cost of bringing the body back to Korea for interment. It has therefore been shipped from Hamburg and will arrive soon.



The Japanese are working up a company for the encouragement of cotton culture in Korea for the purpose of supplying raw material to the mills at Osaka.

In spite of the repeated orders of the Government, Yi Pom-jin the Minister to St. Petersburg declines to come back to Korea. His strong pro-Russian tendencies are said to have caused him to feel some hesitation about returning to Seoul at the present time. No steps have been taken against him by the government because of his apparent ignoring of its demands. There are some who shrewdly suspect that his return has never been seriously desired by the powers that be.

The terms of the recent Fisheries Convention between Korea and Japan are briefly as follows :

(1) Japanese fishermen shall be allowed to fish anywhere off the coast of Pyŕng-an, Whang-hã and Ch'ung-ch'ŕng Provinces, and Korean fishermen shall have the right to fish off the Japanese coast in certain localities (specified).

(2) This agreement shall be in force for twenty years beginning June 1st 1904.

(3) The particulars shall be the same as those found in former fisheries conventions between the two contracting parties.

On June 10th Mr. Hayashi, the Japanese Minister in Seoul, left for Japan. It is generally understood that he went to consult with the authorities about the policy to be adopted in the peninsula and it is rumored that upon his return a definite and positive plan will be put in operation.

The houses of Seoul are to be divided into districts of 100 and a cart is to be provided for each district to attend to the matter of carrying garbage and refuse.

A month ago an order was promulgated forbidding people to ride in sumptuous silk upholstered chairs. A few days ago a woman's chair was stopped by police on the street, the woman was compelled to get into a common chair and the gaudy one she rode in was smashed to pieces.

Mr. Hong U-gwan, for many years connected with the Educational Department, has been appointed head of the new Industrial School for which the government has made such a liberal appropriation. If properly carried on, this school ought to prove of great benefit to the Korean people.

The Governor of South Pyŕng-an Province telegraphed on the 12th inst that 200 Russian cavalry had entered Yŕng-wŕn from the east. This was part of the force that has been creating excitement about the vicinity of Ham-heung.

A Korean in Tokyo had planned to start a bank in Korea with Korean and Japanese capital, to encourage the more complete development of agricultural and other industries in Korea. Money will be lent to worthy individuals to engage in such pursuits. It is said that the Korean government will grant a charter and encourage the enterprise.

On the 28th inst the Foreign Minister Yi Ha-yung published in the

*Che-guk Sin-mun* his views upon the requests of the Japanese for industrial privileges in the interior of Korea. He praises the Japanese for their action in opposing Russian aggression and says that Korea has given them every facility for prosecuting the war, but when it comes to making wholesale concessions involving a large fraction of the resources of the country it is going a little too far. He declares that as Foreign Minister he must decline to entertain any suggestions as to Japanese concessions in Korea. This attitude was applauded by many of the visiting gentlemen, members of the diet. Many memorials have been presented urging the government to take a firm stand in this matter.

His Majesty has promulgated an edict of great importance and of sound statesmanship. He says that as men from Seoul are timid about accepting prefectural positions in the north, thus increasing the hardships of the people there, good men living in those remote districts shall be appointed as prefects without the necessity of coming up to Seoul. This would be a grand thing for the people and we wish it might become a general rule for the whole country. A measure of local autonomy would be of immense benefit, for the incumbent having large local interests would be debarred from many forms of indirection to which the ordinary prefect is prone.

Yi Kyūng-jik, the prefect of Yong-ch'un, whom the Japanese seized and held because of his alleged assistance of the Russians, has been released at the urgent request of the Foreign Minister, who is so positive of the man's innocence that he offers to shoulder all the responsibility if it should be proved that there is any truth in the allegations.

A bureau has been formed in connection with the Household Department to take charge of the timber concession formerly held by the Russians along the Yalu River.

News from Yongampo shows that there is a large amount of magnificent timber lying at that port, having been cut and floated down the river by the Russians. Out of 150,000 logs, 30,000 belonged to the Russians and the remainder to Chinese. The 30,000 will be used by the Japanese. Some of them have been brought to Chemulpo already. We have not learned yet what the Japanese propose to do by way of payment to the Korean government, in view of the fact that Japan considered that the Russians had secured the property by indirection. If the goods were practically stolen, the original owner would seem to have some claim upon them.

The prefect of Tuk-ch'un, about sixty miles northeast of An-ju, reports that on the third of June Russians, guided by a Korean interpreter named Kim In-su, came to that district and looted a government sacrificial house carrying away 643 bags of rice, \$12,040 in money, sixty seven bulls, fifteen horses and donkeys and 140 bolts of linen and cotton. They carried away 178 men as forced carriers. Japanese came and chased the Russians away and caught the interpreter and shot him.

On the seventeenth of June the Japanese authorities made a very important and even startling suggestion to the Foreign Office, namely that all uncultivated land in Korea be opened for Japanese cultivation.

As such land probably comprises one third of the arable land of the peninsula the wide scope of this suggestion will at once be apparent. The question will at once arise as to how the hundreds of thousands of Japanese, thus accommodated, will be governed and controlled. They will evidently not consent to be governed by the Korean authorities, as foreigners are in Japan; and the thousands of Japanese civil officials that would be necessary for the government would form a curious *imperium in imperio* which we confess we do not consider feasible under present conditions.

Up to the time of going to press the championship tennis tournament between Seoul and Chemulpo has not been concluded. Each has won two contests. Chemulpo has lost two good men in the persons of Messrs. Wallace and Fox, and Seoul has to forego the help of Messrs. Chalmers and Gillett. So the contest bids fair to be a very even one.

The prefect of Wiju says that in all the border towns the *Tonghak* have arisen and number in each district from 3,000 to 10,000 men.

Over 200 houses in Pyeng-yang are being pulled down to make room for the station of the Seoul-Wiju Railway.

A Japanese drank copiously at a Korean wine shop but declined to settle the bill. The old woman who kept the shop followed him to a side street outside the South Gate where he turned on her and gave her an ugly wound with a knife. The Korean police arrested the man and carried him to the Japanese Consulate.

The Privy Council and the Cabinet have been flooded with petitions from influential citizens urging that consent be not given to the requests for exclusive and sweeping concessions to the Japanese.

The steamship *Manchuria* arrived at Chemulpo on the 23rd inst. with a number of members of the Japanese Diet and a dozen or more war correspondents. We would not dare guess at their destination but if they are "in" at the fall of Port Arthur they will be candidates for sincere congratulations. Hope deferred makes the heart sick but a little of that sort of medicine would soon put the war correspondents on their feet again.

We are highly gratified to learn that a daily newspaper is to be published in Seoul, and under British editorship. We understand the first issue will appear about July 1st. We wish this venture every possible success. We would urge every foreigner in Korea to remember that such a paper needs and should receive unanimous support.

On the 28th inst. a small boy was killed on the electric tramway in Seoul. Two boys were carelessly playing beside the track and as the car passed one of them fell in front of it and was instantly killed. A crowd soon gathered and began stoning the car. Fortunately one of the American employees was near by and the American Marines were soon on the spot and order restored. No blame whatever can be attached to the Electric Company or its employees.

It is with great pleasure we record the fact that J. N. Jordan, the British Minister to Korea, has been presented with the order of Knight

hood by King Edward VII and he is now a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

At the request of the Police Bureau the Home Department has drawn upon the national treasury for \$40,000 for the repair of the streets and sewers of the capital.

The Japanese police have arrested several Koreans on suspicion of having engaged in counterfeiting Dai Ichi Ginko notes because they had some such notes in their possession. As it was not proved that they were guilty they were released but were again arrested by the Korean police on the ground that they were knowingly circulating counterfeit money.

The Japanese Minister has informed the Foreign Office that four of the eight Koreans who have been studying military tactics in Japan have been attached to the Japanese forces and sent to Manchuria to learn on the field how troops are handled in actual battle. We shall watch with interest to learn how these Koreans deport themselves in the face of the enemy. We have always held the opinion that Koreans, when properly led, will prove as brave and as efficient as any other peoples.

A Japanese, in Kōm-san Ch'ung-ch'ūng Province, shot and killed a Korean. We have not learned the particulars.

The Japanese authorities have suggested that the Korean Government sell to Japan the large reserves of rice held in military granaries throughout Korea but the Imperial Treasury Bureau which controls it has replied that this rice has already been sold. This is believed by some to be a mere excuse.

The predominance of Japan in Korea is reflected in the fact that every Japanese language school in Seoul is crowded with students eager to learn that language. There is no doubt that it will prove of greater general utility than any other foreign language.

We have received from the Chemulpo Branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank a revised statement of its financial position as follows:—

Paid up Capital . . . . .	\$10,000,000
Gold Reserve Fund at 2/- . . . . .	10,000,000
Silver Reserve Fund . . . . .	6,500,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors . . . . .	10,000,000
	<hr/>
	\$36,500,000

## KOREAN HISTORY.

### Chapter XVIII.

A great Crisis... condition of affairs in Seoul... flight of Chinese ...  
 Tā-wūn-kun summoned to palace .. new Cabinet... tribulations of  
 Min Yong-jun... Commission on Reforms appointed... names of  
 Government offices changed ... list of proposed reforms... the cur-  
 rency ... new coinage ... revenue reforms... a national bank...  
 standardization of weights and measures... past abuses rectified  
 ... foreign advisers.

The year 1894 marked the greatest crisis in Korean history since the seventh century, when the kingdom of Silla gained control of the whole peninsula. Considering the fact that so many of the old abuses survived after the year 1894, the above statement may seem extreme but the facts of the case warrant it. From the early years of the Christian era Korea had been moulded by Chinese ideas and had been dominated by her influence. There was no time from the very first when Korea did not consider China her suzerain. In a sense this was natural and right. Korea had received from China an immense number of the products of civilization. Literature, art, science, government, religion—they had all been practically borrowed from China.

Never once during all those centuries did Korea attempt or desire to throw off the garment of her vassalage. And even in this crisis of 1894 it was not thrown off through any wish of the Korean government or people but only through hard necessity. There had been no radical change in the mental attitude of the great mass of Koreans which demanded the severing of the tie which bound them to China and even at this year of grace 1904, there is every reason to believe that a great majority of Koreans would elect to go back under the mild and almost nominal control of China. The change is not one of attitude on the part of the Korean but it is the fact that the war proved to the world the supineness of China



and made it forever impossible to revive her claim to suzerainty over Korea or even, it is to be feared, to hold together her own unwieldy bulk. The outward influence of China upon Korea has ceased and other influences have been at work which are slowly drawing her away from her servile obedience to Chinese ideals. This was the first necessary step to the final emancipation of Korea and her national regeneration. It should be carefully noted that from the earliest centuries the Chinese implanted in the Korean no genuine seed of civilization and progress but simply unloaded upon her some finished products of her civilization. These the Koreans swallowed whole without question, unmindful of the fact that by far the greater part of them were wholly unsuited to the Korean temperament. The result was that as time went on these Chinese impositions were overlaid with a pure Korean product just as the little leaden Buddhas that are thrust into the shell of the pearl oyster become coated over with mother-o'pearl. Buddhism came from China but Korea has so mingled with it her native fetichism and animism that it is something radically different from the original stock.

Now this intrinsic freedom of the Korean from Chinese ideals argued strongly in favor of the belief that from the year 1894 Korea would gradually cast off even the mental vassalage and would begin to work along individual lines. This could happen only in case the individualism of the Korean had outlasted the deadening effects of Chinese predominance. There are many evidences that this individualism has survived but it must be confessed that it is in a crippled condition and all but unable to walk alone. It is to the process and method of this great transformation in Korean conditions that we must now turn.

Up to the time when the Japanese began active operations in Seoul by the seizure of the palace, Korea considered herself safe under the aegis of China. Had she not secured the murder of Kim Ok-kyun and the return of his body on a Chinese vessel for the purpose of wreaking upon it the old time vengeance? Had she not invited Chinese troops into the country in direct contravention of the agreement between China and Japan? In every way and by every means Korea had expressed her contempt of Japanese power and of



Japanese interests. Under the hideously corrupt regime of such men as Min Yong-jun the country had been going from bad to worse until the people found it utterly impossible to endure the oppression any longer. The provinces were in a state of anarchy and Yuan Shih-kei, the unscrupulous Chinese "Resident" in Seoul, stood smilingly by and watched the tragedy without suggesting any remedy for the disease that was destroying the country, but ready to increase the prestige of China in the peninsula by offering troops with which to crush the starving malcontents in the provinces. The condition of things was about as bad as it could be, and it was at this psychological moment that Japan lifted her hand and at a single blow tumbled the Chinese house of cards about their heads.

By the twenty-first of July the situation in Seoul had become unbearable for the Chinese. There was a small Chinese force at Asan but Seoul was occupied by a strong Japanese force and every day the outbreak of hostilities had become more imminent. On the early morning of the 20th Yuan Shih-kei, in a mean little sedan chair, and entirely without escort, made his escape from the city and hastened to Chemulpo, leaving all his nationals to shift for themselves. His flight became known almost immediately and there was a general scramble on the part of the Chinese merchants and other Chinese to escape from the town. When the Chinese Minister left Seoul their interests were put in the hands of the British representative.

On the morning of the 25th the palace was taken and the city walls manned by the Japanese. Min Yong-jun, who was largely responsible for the parlous condition of the government, fled that night to the country, and found refuge in the town of Ch'un-ch'ün about sixty miles east of Seoul.

As soon as the Japanese had secured the palace Minister Otori sought the presence of the king and assured him of his personal safety and that of the Royal family. At the desire of His Majesty the ex-Regent, the Tã-wün-kun was invited to the palace to participate in the discussion of plans for the future, and to allay by his presence the natural fear of the king. It was understood by common consent

that the former officials had all resigned and it was necessary to form a new government. Kim Hong-jip was summoned to act as Prime Minister. He was a man of strong personality and of progressive tendencies, altogether a valuable man for the emergency since he had the entire confidence of the Japanese and was a man of the highest standing in Korea. Other leading men of progressive tendencies were called in and a government was formed for temporary purposes until matters could be put on a firmer footing. Min Yong-jun, Min Eung-sik, Min Hyung sik, Min Ch'i hön, and Kim Se-geui were declared banished to distant points. No attempt was made to send and arrest Min Yong-jun but the members of the "Righteous Army" in the country seized him and charged him with being the main author of the disturbances, and beat him nearly to death. An enormous amount of money that he had carried off with him was divided up and made away with by his followers. He barely escaped with his life and fled to China where he gave the Chinese advice as to the method of reasserting their authority in the peninsula.

At this same time the government recalled Yi To-jä, Sin Keui-sün, Yun Ung-yül and others who had been in banishment for ten years because of their espousal of the liberal cause in 1884. The prison doors were opened and innocent and guilty alike received amnesty.

The government was not yet ready to publish its full list of reforms, based upon the demands already made by the Japanese Minister, but the king immediately declared that as it was necessary to secure good men to administer the Government in Seoul and in the provinces, the demarcation between the upper and lower classes was a thing of the past and all men of all grades were eligible to office, and at the same time he declared the abolition of the great political parties and forbade the apportionment of government offices along party lines. The different leading offices under the government were put in the hands of the best men that were available and it is probable that these men formed the best government that Korea was capable of at the time. Some of the names were as follows: Kim Hong-jip, Pak Chöng-yang, Kim Yun-sik, Kim Chong-han, Cho Heui-yün, Yi Yun-yong, Kim Ka-

jin, An Kyŭng-su, Chŏng Kyŏng-wŭn, Pak Chun-yang, Yi Wŭn-gŏng. Kim Ha-gu, Kwŭn Yŭng-jin, Yu Kil-jun, Kim Ha-yŭng, Yi Eung-ik, Sŏ Sang-jip. Among these names many will be recognized as among the best that Korea has produced in recent times.

On the very next day after the Japanese took the palace and gave a new direction to governmental affairs a special High Commission was called together by the king to consider the matter of reconstructing the government along the new lines. It was composed partly of the members of the Cabinet and partly of other distinguished men. It was well understood that these men were to carry out the ideas of the Japanese authorities. Their deliberations continued for a period of forty-one days during which time they completed a scheme for a new government, along the following lines.

Before this time there had been seven great governmental departments, namely the *Eui-jung-bu* or State Department, *Yi-jo* or Home Department, *Ho-jo* or Finance Department, *Yi-jo* or Ceremonial Department, *Pyŭng-jo* or War Department, *Hyŭng-jo* or Law Department, *Kong-jo* or Department of Public Works. Besides these there were the two *Po-ch'ŭng* or Police offices, the *Eui-gom-bu* or Supreme Court and other lesser offices. In the new regime the seven Departments above named were all retained excepting the Ceremonial Department and in place of this they founded for the first time in Korean history a genuine Educational Department coördinate in dignity with any other of the great Departments. Besides this the Department of Public Works was broadened to include Agriculture and Commerce. A Police Bureau was formed to take the place of the former two *Poch'ŭngs*.

They also prepared a list of needed reforms in the government.

(1) From this time all Korean documents shall be dated from the year of the present Dynasty. (This was the 503rd year, as the Dynasty was founded in 1392).

(2) Korean treaties with China shall be revised and ministers shall be sent to the various treaty powers.

(3) Class distinctions in Korea shall be wiped out and men shall be judged solely on their merits in the matter of government office.

(4) The distinction between civil and military rank, in favor of the former, shall be done away and they shall stand on an equality.

(5) The family and relatives of a criminal shall not be liable to arrest or punishment for his crime.

(6) The son by a concubine shall be eligible for the succession.

(7) Men shall attain the age of twenty and women the age of sixteen before marriage.

(8) Widows shall be allowed to remarry without loss of social standing.

(9) All slaves are declared free and the sale or purchase of human beings is abolished.

(10) The privilege of memorial is extended to the general public. Anyone shall be at liberty to address the throne through a memorial.

(11) The long sleeves on coats, whether court dress or common are abolished. But officials shall be authorized to wear the sleeveless coat over the ordinary one. Soldiers' uniforms shall continue as at present for a time but may be changed gradually to the foreign style.

(12) The people shall be given one month in which to prepare for these changes.

(13) The Police Bureau shall be an adjunct of the Home Department.

(14) Officials shall not ride on the streets in the high one-wheeled chair nor shall they be accompanied by a large retinue, nor shall the attendants call out for people to clear the way.

(15) No one shall be obliged to dismount when passing an official nor to show any other sign of servility.

(16) The Prime Minister shall have only four attendants, the Vice Prime Minister and all the other ministers of state shall have three, the vice-ministers shall have two and the secretaries one.

(17) Even eunucks, if they are men of ability, shall be eligible for office.

(18) The law that relatives may not sue each other at law shall be abrogated except for very near relatives, and feuds between families shall be given up.

(19) All debts of long standing shall be cancelled (such as debts contracted by a father who is now dead or by relatives).

(20) There shall be but eleven official grades (in place of the eighteen which there had been formerly).

(21) There shall be no longer any outcast class in Korea but butchers, contortionists, acrobats, dancing girls, sorceresses and exorcists shall all be considered equal to others before the law.

(22) Even after holding high office a man may engage in business or other occupation, at his pleasure.

(23) The matter of the national examination shall be reserved for fuller discussion.

It is not necessary to go into an analysis of these proposed reforms. They speak for themselves; some of them were necessary and others were the reverse. But they form a striking commentary on the condition of affairs in Korea at the time. Whatever may have been the defects of this plan it was an honest and strenuous attempt on the part of the best statesmen Korea could produce and it promised much. If its terms could have been carried out it would have proved an inestimable blessing to the people of the peninsula, but one can easily see that some of the proposals struck at the very fabric of Korean society. For instance the attempt to make acrobats, dancing-girls and *mudang* the social equals of reputable people was of course absurd. The submerged classes cannot be enfranchised by a stroke of the pen. What Korea needed then and needs still is education. This alone will make fundamental reforms possible.

Early in August the currency of the country received serious attention. Foreign money was in use in the open ports but the general currency of the country consisted of two kinds of perforated "cash," one called *yŭp*, each piece of which was called one cash, and the other called *tang-o* or the "five fitter." These represented five cash each. The *yŭp* was the old, genuine and universally recognized money of the country. It was only in Seoul, the open ports and on the great thoroughfares near Seoul that the *tang-o* circulated. This *tang-o* was a debased coin made in 1883 and several succeeding years. At first each of

the *tang-o* exchanged for five of the *yŭp* but within a few months the *tang-o* fell to an inevitable discount which increased year by year from 1883 until 1894, when it was found that they were practically the same. Successive issues of the *yŭp* had deteriorated the quality and size of the coin until it was worth only a fifth of its face value. For this reason the Government declared in August that the *yŭp* and the *tang-o* were on a par and that no distinction should be made between them. The fair thing would have been for the Government to redeem the debased *tang-o* at its face value but of course no one could expect this under the circumstances. It had proved an indirect tax upon the people equal to four fifths its face value.

At the same time the national financiers determined to place in the hands of the people a foreign style coinage, and soon a one cent copper piece, a nickel five cent piece and silver coins of twenty cent and one dollar denominations, which had been in process of manufacture since 1901, were issued. A few of them had been issued a year or two before but had not been well received. Now they passed current and were used, but it was soon found that the silver coins were being bought up and hoarded by wealthy people who placed no faith in banks, and soon not a single native silver piece could be found anywhere.

It was the intention of the Commission to withdraw from circulation all the old cash and replace it with the foreign style money. How absurd this was will be seen at a glance. There is nothing else that people are so timid about as their money and the bare idea of making such a sweeping change was preposterous, but the Japanese were behind all these reforms and, while their intentions were of the best, they made the serious mistake in this as in other attempted reforms of hurrying things too fast.

Another important problem attacked by the Reform Commission was that of the revenue. It had always been customary to pay taxes in rice, linen, beans, cotton and a hundred other commodities, but it was decided now to change all this and have the revenue turned into cash in the country and sent up to the capital. In order to do this it was necessary to have banking facilities in the provinces and it was planned



to establish a great national bank with branches all over the country.

An attempt was also made to effect an inspection and standardization of all the weights and measures in the country.

It was ordered that every house in the land should have its owner's name and occupation and the number of his family posted in a conspicuous place on his front gate. This was to facilitate the work of postal, police and census officials and agents.

One of the reforms that was carried out was the sending of students abroad to acquire an education.

It was decreed that all land or houses that had been illegally seized by unscrupulous people in power during the past ten years should be restored to their rightful owners. Many officials in Seoul, well known in foreign circles, lost large fractions of their wealth because of this decree.

The policy was adopted of engaging foreign advisers for the various great Departments of State and as a result of this a number of foreigners were employed. Some of them had already been some time in the service of the government.

## Chapter XIX.

The Ex-Regent . . . The new Cabinet . . . the *Tong-hak* pacified . . . The Tã-wün-kun retires . . . Japan declares war . . . Korea abrogates all treaties with China . . . Pak Yong-hyo returns . . . his memorial . . . he is pardoned . . . Chinese excesses in the north . . . new Korean-Japanese treaty . . . Marquis Saionji visits Seoul . . . *Tong-hak* in arms again . . . Prince Eui-wha goes to Japan . . . Count Inouye comes . . . amnesty to offenders of 1884 . . . Dr. Jaisohn comes . . . Army reform . . . the privy Council . . . the King's Oath.

The Tã-wün-kun, the former Regent, was now a prominent factor in the government and the well known strength of his personality did much to give stability to the new regime. The Queen necessarily retired from active participation in politics for the time being and there was apparent promise of better days to come. The new cabinet chosen at this time

was a curious mixture of progressive and conservative men. It was composed of Kim Hong-jip, Kim Yun-sik, O Yun-jung, Pak Chōng-yang and An Kyōng-su representing the progressive wing and Min Yong-dal, Sū Chūng-sun, Yi Kyu-wūn, Yun Yong-gu and Um Se-yūng representing the conservative wing. Among the secondary officials some were progressive and some conservative. This apparent blending of the various factions was a hopeful sign outwardly but it had no real significance. All were appointed by permission of the Japanese and they worked together only because it was useless to oppose. But the same intrinsic hostility remained and only needed opportunity to manifest itself. It was the calm of repression rather than of genuine reconciliation, and it helped to prove that there is no hope for good government in Korea by Koreans until the country has secured the benefit of genuine education.

These reforms that were proposed had the apparent sanction of His Majesty, as is proved by the fact that after their proposal he called all the high officials to the palace and made them a speech in which he referred to this as a splendid opportunity to make a radical and beneficent change in the government, and laid it as a sacred duty upon the officials to carry out the reforms, and he declared that he, too, would become a new king and do his part in bringing about the desired renovation of the land.

In spite of the previous declaration that the *tong-hak* uprising was at an end there was much unrest especially in the south and the *tong-hak* were really as ready as ever to take the offensive. For this reason the king sent a high official to Kyūng-sang Province to make an attempt at pacification and told the people that the trouble was because of his own lack of virtue and begged them to be patient a little longer until the reforms could be carried out. The people were pleased, especially with the promise that slavery should be discontinued and that the barriers between the classes should be broken down. The fact that this effort on the part of the king was entirely successful shows that the *tong-hak* were not anarchists or banditti but were merely desperate citizens who required some assurance that certain changes would be made so that life would be bearable.

A word is necessary as to the attitude of the Tā-wūn-kun toward these reforms. He had been called to the palace and put in a responsible advisory position by the Japanese but he was not the sort of man to hold an empty honor or to pose as a mere figure-head. Several of the proposed reforms were distasteful to him but when he found that his objections carried no weight he retired to his private house in disgust. It took him only a few weeks to discover that his elevation had been merely a formality.

The month of August was an anxious one in Korea. The battle of Asan had been fought on the 28th and 29th of July and it was known that there would be a decisive battle fought at P'yŏng Yang in the near future. Foreign opinion was divided as to the probabilities, some people believing that the Japanese would sweep every thing before them and others being equally sure that the Chinese would win.

But in spite of the state of anxiety and unrest the month of August saw some important results accomplished in civil matters. The Commission on Reforms were at work on their scheme until about the tenth of the month. It was on August 1st that Japan formally declared war on China and a few days later troops began to pour in by way of Chemulpo and join those already here.

It was on August 16 that there occurred the formal act of casting off Chinese suzerainty. On that day the Korean government declared all treaties hitherto signed between itself and China to be abrogated and all political connection between the two countries to be at an end. The Japanese Minister had already on June 28th demanded from the government an expression of its attitude toward China and had received the answer that Korea considered herself an independent power. This was now followed up by a definite diplomatic rupture between the two and, probably forever, the question of Chinese political predominance in the peninsula was disposed of.

It was about the 20th of August that Pak Yong-hyo, the refugee in Japan since his participation in the attempted *coup* of 1884, was brought to Seoul *incognito* by the Japanese. He had long since been declared an arch-traitor by the Korean government, his house had been razed to the ground and his

family dispersed. For almost ten years he had enjoyed asylum in Japan and had been treated with great consideration by the Japanese who rightly saw in him a man of strong personality, settled convictions and a genuine loyalty to the best interests of his native land. His worst enemies would probably grant that he falls below none in his desire to see Korea prosperous and enlightened. It was the methods adopted that made all the trouble and drove him into exile.

At first he remained in hiding in the Japanese quarter but from that point of vantage he sent a long memorial to the King relating the fact of his high ancestry and the fact that it was purely in the interests of Korea that he participated in the *emeute* of 1884. He had been however, unsuccessful and was branded as a traitor, compelled to fly the country and see his house broken up. Now that the country had fallen upon such critical times and the King had determined to effect a radical change in affairs it was a cause of utmost rejoicing to him and he could not help coming back even though it cost his life. He begged to see the King's face once more, to be allowed to collect and bury the bones of his relatives and be given back his life which had been forfeited. If then the King should wish to use him again he would be at the service of His Majesty.

To this plea the King listened, whether from preference or out of consideration for the Japanese, and replied that the petitioner was forgiven and might resume his former status as a Korean citizen. A number of memorials immediately poured into the palace urging that Pak Yong-hyo be executed as a traitor, but as the decree of pardon had already gone forth these memorials were ignored.

The fall of P'yŭng-yang before the victorious Japanese on September 15-17 and the flight of the Chinese inflicted great sufferings upon the Koreans in the north. The Chinese followed their usual medieval tactics and pillaged right and left. The local magistrates and governors fled to places of safety and the people survived the best they could. The government hastened to send a high official to the north to calm the excitement and counteract the disintegrating effects of the Chinese flight. At the same time the perfect orderliness of the Japanese army began to be understood by the

people, and between these two agencies the northern province speedily settled down to its former status. The city of P'yŭng-yang had been almost deserted by its 60,000 or more of people and it was many months before the town resumed its normal status.

As August drew to an end the Japanese deemed the time ripe for completing the purposed union with Korea and on the 26th there appeared a provisional treaty between the two countries, which was not an offensive and defensive alliance but one in which Japan guaranteed the independence of Korea and Korea engaged to look to Japan for advice and to aid her in every possible way. The nature of this agreement was practically the same as that made between the same countries at the opening of the Japan-Russia War in 1904. In it Japan once more emphasized the independence of Korea which she had consistently championed ever since the Japanese-Korean treaty was signed in 1876.

The month of September opened with the arrival of Marquis Saionji with presents and a friendly message from the Emperor of Japan. The visit was merely a complimentary one and seems to have been devoid of great political significance.

It was evident that Japanese influence was overwhelmingly predominant in Seoul and as the government had committed itself to the policy of selecting advisers for its various departments there was reason to believe that most of these places would be filled by Japanese and that they would so predominate numerically as to seriously impair the autonomy of the government. As foreign powers had concluded treaties with Korea on the basis of equality, this possibility became a matter of concern to them and through their representatives here they protested against the employment of an undue number of assistants from any one nationality. Whether there ever was any such danger as was anticipated we cannot say, but this preventive measure was successful at any rate and the apparent independence of the government was never shaken.

The month of October saw the Chinese driven across the Yalu and order restored in a measure on Korean soil, but it also saw the resurgence of the *long-hak* in the south.

These malcontents had been temporarily cowed by the coming of Chinese and Japanese troops but now they seem to have discovered that the Chinese and Japanese were too busy with each other to attend to the civil troubles in the interior of Korea. So they broke out much worse than ever and the principal anxiety of the month in Seoul was the putting down of the serious insurrection. Sin Chŭng-heui, the highest Korean general, was sent south to Kong-ju with three thousand Korean troops to meet a strong body of *tong-hak* who were reported to be marching on Seoul. A few days later there was a series of fights at various points throughout the province, notably at Kong-ju, Ung-jin, U-gum Hill, Yi-in village, Hyo Harbor, Sŏ-sau and Hong-ju. About two hundred Japanese troops aided the government forces and at every point the government troops were successful. Some of the fights were very severe. It is probable that there were some 20,000 *tong-hak* in all, but they were a mere rabble compared with the well armed and at least partially drilled government troops. A large number of the *tong-hak* leaders were captured and brought to Seoul. Many were also executed in the country, for the generals were given the power of life and death for the time being.

Having been thus dispersed the *tong-hak* moved southward and took their stand at various places in Chulla and southern Ch'ung-ch'ŭng Provinces. Their main point was the town of No-sŭng where for eleven days they continued to revile the government and put up placards defying the government troops. The Korean troops moved on them and soon had them on the retreat again. Other encounters took place at various points but by this time the leading spirits in the *tong-hak* movement had been captured. Among these were Chŭn Nok-tu and Kim Kā-nam. They were brought to Seoul and the latter was executed and the former is said to have been taken to Japan, but there is some doubt as to his fate. Two *tong-hak* leaders named Kim Chŏng-hyŭn and An Seung-gwan were beheaded at Su-wŭn and their heads were raised high on poles and the people told to take warning from them. This put an end to the *tong-hak* except for some small sporadic movements which amounted to nothing. But the *tong-hak*, like the poor, we have ever with us,—*in posse*.



Prince Eui-wha was sent to Tokyo to return the visit of Marquis Saionji and present the compliments of the King to the Emperor of Japan.

The Japanese government evidently realized the necessity of having an exceptionally strong representation in Seoul, for Count Inouye arrived on the 20th of October and assumed the duties of minister. He had more than once helped to straighten out matters in Korea and he had the confidence of the king and of the people as well. No better appointment could have been made under the circumstances.

The end of October was signalized by the murder of Kim Hak-u, the vice-Minister of Law, who was one of the strongest and best men that the reform movement had brought to the front. He was stabbed at night in his house.

The month of November witnessed some progress in the reconstruction of the government. The pardon of Pak Yong-hyo had been the sign for a general amnesty to all those who had forfeited their rights in 1884. Sū Chǎ-p'il, known better as Dr. Philip Jaisohn, who had been many years in America and had become a naturalized citizen of that country, had come back to Korea quietly and was awaiting an opportunity to make himself useful. Sū Kwang-bōm had also come back from exile in Japan and others who had been kept sedulously in the background because of their liberal tendencies all came forward and received recognition by the king and were put again in line of political preferment. So rapid was the progress of this movement that by the middle of December the king found himself moved to form a new cabinet composed almost entirely of men who had been foremost in the attempt of 1884, as the following list will show. The Ministers were Kim Hong-jip, Yū Kil-jun, Pak Yong-hyo, Sū Kwang-bōm, Cho Heui-yūn, Sin Keui-sūn, Um Se-yŏng, O Yun-jung, Kim Yun-sik, Pak Chong-yang and Yi Cha-myūn. At the same time Dr. Jaisohn was employed as adviser to the Privy Council for a term of ten years.

This era of change also affected the Korean Army. The various regiments in Seoul, numbering five, had heretofore been under wholly independent and separate commands but now they were all placed in the hands of the War Department, their names were changed and many men were dropped

because of age and younger men were appointed in their places. The tactics that had been taught were given up and the Japanese tactics were introduced instead.

We have referred to the Privy Council. This was an advisory board or council composed of some forty men whose business it was to take up and discuss all important government matters, and it was supposed to have a sort of veto power. It exercised this power for about three years but lost it when the Independence Club was overthrown. The entire personnel of this Council was progressive and pro-Japanese. There can be no question that the machinery was now all complete whereby Korea could be governed properly. There was no great obstacle in the way. All that was needed was that no serious blunders should be made and that the Japanese should act firmly but wisely. At the same time there was a strong pressure being exerted behind the scenes in the opposite direction and, as we shall see, not without effect. And so the year 1894 came to a close and the new year opened with great promise of better things to come. On the fifth of the new year the king went to the Ancestral Temple and in the most solemn manner took an oath to carry out the reforms already determined upon and partly inaugurated. It is unnecessary to give this oath in full but only to enumerate the principal points. After a long preamble in which the king declares his intention to uphold the government as an independent one he guarantees specifically that—

(1) All thought of dependence on China shall be put away.

(2) The line of succession and rank in the Royal Family shall be clearly marked.

(3) The King shall attend to public business in person and in consultation with his ministers, and the Queen shall not interfere in government matters.

(4) The affairs of the Royal Household shall be kept quite distinct from the general government.

(5) The duties of Ministers and other officials shall be clearly defined.

(6) Taxes shall be regulated by law and additions to them are forbidden.

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